

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



June 1990

Vol. 3, No. 5

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.



1990
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR



National Literacy Poster Contest

An all expense paid trip to New York and a cheque for \$250.00 will be awarded to the winner of the Movement for Canadian Literacy's National Literacy Poster Contest this fall. The contest, open to all adult literacy and basic education students throughout Canada, including those in learner/tutor programs, will be judged by a panel representing literacy students as well as printers and designers. The winner will travel to New York to attend a ceremony unveiling the poster on Human Rights Day, December 10. The winning design will be reproduced as the MCL Poster for the International Literacy Decade.

Designs must be:

- * submitted on white paper 46 cm x 60 cm in black ink and unfolded
- * accompanied by the full name, address and telephone number of entrant, and name and address of program attended
- * postmarked no later than midnight, October 1, 1990

Designs will become the property of MCL. Send entries to:
National Poster Contest
Movement for Canadian Literacy
#701 - 880 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6K7

Launching the Literacy Decade from Banff in 1991

"Launching the Literacy Decade: Awareness into Action" will be the theme of the Second North American Conference on Adult and Adolescent Literacy sponsored by the International Reading Association in Banff, Alberta next year. The I.R.A. and collaborating organizations have issued a call for proposals for symposia, panels, workshops and discussions reflecting the goals of the Conference, scheduled for March 21-23, 1991 at the Banff Springs Hotel. The goals of the Conference are:

- . to continue the public awareness initiated by International Literacy Year and perpetuate it throughout the next decade
- . to strengthen the networks of literacy practitioners through information sharing and demonstration of successful programs
- . to build links between adult and adolescent literacy concerns
- . to exchange research findings
- . to generate action plans for future research and practice

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Proposals for consideration by the Program Committee must include a short program description (objectives, method and content) as well as a list of program presenters, and be mailed, accompanied by an application form, no later than September 15, 1990. The Committee will consider all proposals relevant to the goals and themes of the Conference; all entrants will be notified of the Committee's decision by December 15. Application forms are available through Patty Bossort, A.B.E.A.B.C. President, from the Contact Centre office.

The I.R.A. Association is unable to reimburse program participants for travel and living expenses; all participants will be required to register for the Conference and pay regular fees. For more information, contact:

Barbara Onstad
Chairperson, Program Committee
Saskatchewan Education
2220 College Avenue, 3rd Floor
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 W. Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
684-0624 1-800-663-1293

If you would like to be on the newsletter mailing list, please call the Centre. We welcome receiving your literacy news by phone or mail.

Linking Newspapers with Literacy

NewsLink is a special project for International Literacy Year that links community newspapers with local literacy programs. Co-sponsored by the Canadian Organization for Development in Education (CODE) and the Canadian Community Newspapers Association, and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the National Literacy Secretariat, Secretary of State, NewsLink aims to increase awareness of functional and basic illiteracy by encouraging community newspapers across Canada to write about illiteracy and the projects or programs taking place in their communities. The best articles will then be chosen by a panel of judges and the selected journalists will participate in an international exchange.

In addition, and in response to the desire of many adults to learn to read a newspaper, NewsLink has developed a teaching guide on how to use the various components of a community newspaper to build basic and functional reading and writing skills. The manual was produced by a team of teachers and literacy workers who then field tested the material in their classrooms. The first edition of the manual will appear in late summer and a series of free workshops will be held to introduce NewsAble to adult literacy teachers in the fall. Each participant will receive a copy of the course manual and instruction in its use.

Workshops in B.C. will be held at the following locations:

- Vancouver, Sheraton Landmark
September 28, 1990
- Nanaimo, Coast Bastion Inn
October 2, 1990
- Kamloops, Travelodge
October 4, 1990

Pre-registration by August 17, 1990 is required. Travel subsidies may be available. To register, or for more information, please contact Linda Hackett at the Adult Literacy Contact Centre: 684-0624 in the Lower Mainland and 1-800-663-1293 in the rest of B.C.

"A Global View" From Vancouver

Registration is still open for the 45th International Conference of the Correctional Education Association to be held in Vancouver from July 8 - 11. Entitled "A Global View: International Perspectives on Correctional Education", the conference will bring together teachers and administrators from correctional institutions throughout the world, as well as others concerned with prison employment, education, training and well-being. Featuring a mix of academic and applied events, the conference includes plenary addresses, panel sessions, and over 100 concurrent sessions designed to examine a wide range of issues central to correctional education, including literacy and corrections in International Literacy Year. Featured conference speaker is Alan Wells, Director of the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU) in London, England. For further program or registration information, please contact:

Terry Fowler
The 1990 CEA Conference
Office of Continuing Studies
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C.
V5A 1S6

291-4214 or 291-4565

The Write Place Reaches Out to Seniors

The Write Place - the newly opened Parksville/Qualicum literacy services centre for adults with reading or writing difficulties - was on hand to promote its services at a special event for seniors recently in Parksville. The "Seniors' Health and Wellness Fair," featuring displays of products, information and services of interest to seniors by more than 30 local agencies, was held on Saturday, June 16 at the Parksville Community Hall. The event was organized by the Senior Wellness Education Committee with the assistance of the provincial Ministry of Health's "Choosing Wellness Program" and the Seniors' Health Network.

Volunteers from The Write Place staffed a table at the fair and distributed copies of the centre's information brochure and first monthly newsletter. The brochure outlines the literacy services available to seniors. These include assistance with banking procedures; casting a ballot; finding a counsellor; filling in application forms; and understanding prescriptions, brochures, newspapers, advertising, etc. The Write Place is operated by the Project Literacy - Fresh Start Society in partnership with Malaspina College, as a cost-shared project of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the Secretary of State.

Write Place staff were encouraged by the response from seniors to their materials.

"Eight people signed on to become volunteer tutors," reports Elise Wilson, one of four part-time employees. "And we received about 25 inquiries. About half of those had already heard of us through our

publicity campaign. We really enjoyed the involvement with seniors. The response from the public has been excellent."

"Our table was staffed partly by volunteer tutors, including some retirees," adds Karen Dawe. "It's quite a concern with seniors here - making contact with the proper agencies they need to go to for help. Seniors seem to be forgotten sometimes. Hopefully, more have found out about us now, and are aware of how we can serve them."

The Write Place is conducting an awareness campaign with wide distribution of its brochure throughout the Parksville/Qualicum area and publicity on local community cable television. "We want to attract more publicity and public feedback on the services we can provide to the community," says Ms. Dawe.

Literacy Awareness in the Mall in Mount Pleasant

Passersby in Vancouver's east side Kingsgate Mall were attracted by a clown, mime artist, and gaily decorated Reading Tent recently, as the Mount Pleasant Adult Literacy Project held a "Literacy Awareness in the Mall" campaign. The campaign, sponsored by the Project and the Basic Education Department, King Edward Campus, Vancouver Community College, was held in conjunction with the Mount Pleasant Branch of the Vancouver Public Library, the Kingsgate Mall Merchant's Association, and the Native Tutoring Centre. It was held from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. over four days, from June 6-9, in the main corridor of the mall outside the library.

"Our goals were to talk about literacy with people in the community, and to inform them about programs in and around Mount Pleasant," says Sally Gellard, project coordinator, who lives and works in the area. She is pleased with the interest the display of materials attracted, and with the cooperation of those who helped develop and maintain the information booth. The booth was staffed by volunteers from the Project's advisory committee, K.E.C. students, Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, learners, and interested people from the community. The Reading Tent was donated by Southam News. Judy Minchinton, one of the advisory committee members who helped staff the booth, commented that "Many of the people I've talked to are surprised that this display is (also) aimed at English speaking adults. They assume it must be only for children or ESL."

June Open House Events

On June 8 Kahtou celebrated its move to a new location with an Open House featuring a traditional opening ceremony, native music, dancing, art, readings and performances. Kahtou - the monthly newspaper on native affairs published by Vancouver's Native Communications Society - moved from Beatty Street to shared premises at 1161 West Georgia Street in Vancouver in early June. The newspaper will publish a special edition this summer on drug and alcohol abuse which will feature a career section to promote upgrading and educational opportunities available to native students.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

In November 1989 the Hastings Adult Learning Centre - a wheelchair accessible, storefront learning centre operated by the Vancouver School Board - opened on Vancouver's east side. Since then more than 300 students have enrolled in programs ranging from basic reading, writing and computation skills to high school completion. Students may drop in for study or attend directed classes in specific skills such as essay writing, conversation improvement and ESL.

The Centre's official opening ceremony on June 12 featured a ribbon-cutting by Mrs. Marina Navin, Vice-Chairperson, Board of Trustees and Dr. Gerry Staley, Interim Superintendent, V.S.B. After introductory remarks by Ken Harvey, Director of Career and Continuing Education, Mrs. Navin addressed the assembled guests, followed by the introduction of Learning Centre staff and volunteers by Judy Roth, Program Coordinator of ABE/ESL. Two students - Alan Taylor and Tunde Ratkay - spoke to the guests about their learning experience at the Centre while Coordinator Yana Sabanskis told the audience that the Centre now has six students who have written the GED test.

National Training Event for Literacy Students Held in Candle Lake

Five delegates from B.C. attended Canada's first National Training Event for literacy students in Candle Lake, Saskatchewan over the May long weekend. The event, which brought together 70 students and 13 practitioners, produced a Declaration in draft form, now being revised by participants, which will be circulated to governments and literacy organiza-

tions across the country by late summer.

The Training Event was held by the Learner Action Group of Canada, in cooperation with the Movement for Canadian Literacy, with financial support from the Secretary of State. The Learner Action Group (LAG) consists of 15 current and former students, representing each province and territory, and three literacy workers. B.C.'s LAG representative, Larry Loyie of Vancouver, was accompanied by Sandy Pearson of Prince Rupert, Ken Reich of Kelowna, Lisa Clark of Mount Lehman, and Wayne Kingston of Nanaimo. The B.C. delegates made the trip with the assistance of a \$1500.00 donation towards transportation costs from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. also contributed \$400 to the project.

Workshops at the event focussed on practical skills, such as how to lobby, organize meetings, deal with the media, avoid "tokenism" and participate actively in local programs.

"It was an emotional high for many," says Elise Mennie of MCL. "It was the first time many of the participants had travelled so far from home, so it was a very moving experience for them. They came away with a strong feeling of having participated in something very important." A delegate from a Native Literacy Program in Kenora, Ontario, for example, wrote that he "would feel a part of the literacy movement for the rest of his life."

Workshops, which were chaired by learners and practitioners and offered in both English and French, were organized around public speaking, fundraising and leadership skills. The weekend also included an evening of

cultural sharing, with songs, skits and readings from different parts of Canada and from the four international learners present from South Africa, Kenya, St. Vincent's and Alaska.

The Declaration (also referred to as a mission statement) from the event, revised by a three-member LAG sub-committee who met June 15-17 in Ottawa, has been sent to participants and will be issued by August or possibly early September, according to Ms. Mennie. A report and a video of the event will also be available in the fall.

B.C. Book Voyage Comes to Vancouver

The B.C. Book Voyage arrived in Vancouver last week where an outdoor ceremony at Vancouver Community College was highlighted by student readings and the gift of a literacy symbol from Canada Post. The arrival ceremony took place in the courtyard of the King Edward Campus on Wednesday, June 20, attended by literacy students, K.E.C. Basic Education staff and instructors, Canada Post personnel, and Movement for Canadian Literacy representatives. The Book will move from K.E.C. (this week) to the Vancouver School Board and on to libraries within the Vancouver Public Library system.

K.E.C. Basic Education Department Head Paulette Maglaque told the audience that it was a special occasion for K.E.C. students. "They are here to celebrate the power of creativity in a book by and for students," she said. "This day belongs to them."

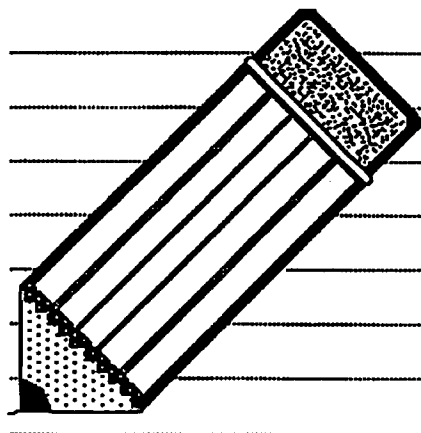
Following an address by K.E.C. Principal Dr. Lawrence Fast, Ms.

Maglaque introduced MCL provincial representative Mardi Joyce, who accepted the book from Gillian Bickley of Canada Post. Ms. Bickley then handed the book to Anne Ethier, a literacy student at K.E.C. Canada Post is one of the official carriers for the Book Voyage in B.C.

Following readings of the students' work, Mike Gormick, Pacific Divisional General Manager of Canada Post, unveiled a large, framed print of the Corporation's commemorative literacy stamp - a symbol for literacy in Canada - and presented it to Ms. Joyce. The design is a multicoloured image of a bird in flight created from varying type fonts and sizes. Gormick said prints of the symbol will be available through Canada Post to Canadian literacy organizations.

"We are committed to the cause of literacy because a technically literate work force is crucial for Canada Post to remain competitive," he said. "Our commitment will continue in the future, beyond International Literacy Year."

Ms. Joyce thanked Canada Post for the gift and announced that, to date, the B.C. Book contained over 1000 submissions.



LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

PL ABBOTSFORD-MATSQUI

Contact: Cynthia Andruske
Wendy Watson
Fraser Valley College
33844 King Road
Abbotsford, B.C.
Phone: 853-7441

FORT ST. JOHN LITERACY SOCIETY

Contact: Romi Haseo
Fort St. John Public Library
10349 - 100th Street
Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 3Z2
Phone: 785-3731

This recently formed group - still in the process of becoming a society - held a brainstorming session at its May 28th meeting to determine the expectations of members and its future direction as a society. Librarian Romi Haseo, who coordinates activity by both volunteers and potential learners from her office at the Fort St. John Public Library, says that establishing a permanent facility or drop-in Centre has become a priority.

"There are more and more people becoming interested in doing something," she says. "We have learners approaching us asking for tutors and telling us what they would like out of a tutoring program. The need is there. It's a very positive sign." With permission from the library board, Ms. Haseo will continue to take calls from potential learners and volunteers "until it becomes too overwhelming. Then we will have to arrange a separate phone number."

As well as a permanent centre and an individual tutoring program, a third goal is to secure funding. The group has received \$800.00 towards an awareness campaign and is exploring other funding sources as well. A decision on whether to continue to meet on the fourth Monday of the month during July and August will be made at the June 25 meeting.

FRASER VALLEY EAST LITERACY ASSOCIATION

Contact: Gail Newby
45405 Stevenson Road
Sardis, B.C. V2R 1M2
Phone: 858-4913

This group has put its activities on hold until the fall. The next scheduled meeting is September 12.

PL GREATER VANCOUVER

Contact: Hendrik Hoekema
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6
Phone: 291-3298

The guest speaker at the June 22 meeting of PLGV was Gary Pharness of Little Mountain Neighbourhood House and the Vancouver City Hall workplace program who spoke on the topic of literacy in the workplace. PLGV will not meet during July and August and the next meeting is scheduled for September 28 in the 5th floor Board Room, King Edward Campus, Vancouver Community College at 9:00 a.m.

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

PL KELOWNA

Contact: Maxine Veach (Coordinator)
Betty Knox (President)
P.O. Box 1886, Station A,
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 8P2
Phone: 762-2163

"Our book has just been published and the learners are thrilled. They want to do it over again." That response comes from coordinator Maxine Veach with the announcement of the publication of *Our Words*, a book of writings by Kelowna area literacy students now available through PL Kelowna.

The 46-page spiral-bound booklet contains 45 submissions by approximately 35 writers and was illustrated by local volunteer tutor Charley Adam. Its initial print run of 250 copies has been distributed to the learners and tutors who contributed, the Okanagan College Kelowna Campus library, and the five regional branches of the area's library system. The cost was underwritten by the Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation. An extra 200 copies were ordered by the board, reports Ms. Veach, to fill demand from learners and to sell in local bookstores. "Those with their work in print are asking for more," she says. "On average they've been picking up two or three extra copies each." Copies of the book will also be available to large donors and included with a PL Kelowna membership package at a cost of \$10.00.

The office will be closed during most of July, but callers may contact PL President Betty Knox (Phone: 764-4567) for information on upcoming events.

LITERACY KITIMAT

Contact: Janette Camazzola
c/o Kitimat Community Services
Society
#201 - 370 City Centre
Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6
Phone: 632-3927

PL Kitimat has copies of the Modified Driver's Manual for B.C. (reprinted in lower case for easy readability) available for a cost of \$3.00, according to Janette Camazzola. PL Kitimat currently has 13 students working with 20 tutors on a one-to-one basis. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month; contact Ms. Camazzola for further details.

LITERACY NANAIMO

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie
#314 - 350 Terminal Avenue
Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 4J7
Phone: 754-1704

Volunteers from Literacy Nanaimo will spend the summer canvassing for donations to "The Great Nanaimo Book Sale," a fundraising project for the group's planned Downtown Learning Centre. "We are making arrangements to place collection boxes for used books in local churches and at some of the city's major employers," explained Carolyn McWhinnie, Association President. "When school starts again in the fall, we'll get the students involved as well." The sale is scheduled for September 29 at Brechin United Church. Donors will also be able to contact the Association for pick-up service through a special telephone number which will be advertised throughout the community.

PL PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM

Contact: Linda Perkins
The Write Place
192A Morison Avenue
Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0
Phone: 248-4041 or 248-4042

The Write Place, the literacy services centre for adults with reading and writing difficulties which had its official opening in April, has published its first newsletter - and is holding a "Name the Newsletter Contest." Deadline for entries is July 15. (The centre's hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10:00-5:00, Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00-2:00 p.m.). Staff recently displayed literacy materials to seniors at a "Health and Wellness Fair" in Parksville; see story elsewhere in this issue. Volunteer tutor training sessions will be held in the fall.

PL PRINCE GEORGE

Contact: Murry Krause
Coordinator, United Way
Box 494
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4S6
Phone: 561-1040
Fax: 562-8102

The Executive of PLPG is meeting June 28 to discuss the group's strategic planning process in more detail, reports spokesperson Murry Krause.

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

PL PRINCE RUPERT

Contact: Sheila Lid
1920 Atlin Avenue
Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1E8
Phone: 624-6698 or 627-7178

The group has discontinued activity for the summer and will resume meeting in September.

PL SUNSHINE COAST

Contact: Mary Pinnigar
c/o Continuing Education
S.D. #46
P.O. Box 888,
Sechelt, B.C.
Phone: 885-2991

A literacy conference for learners and representatives of local community groups will be held this fall in Sechelt reports Mary Pinnigar, Director of Continuing Education for S.D. #46. Ms. Pinnigar is the new contact person for the group, replacing Diane Evans. The Sunshine Coast's first Learners' Event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. September 12 at Rockwood Lodge in Sechelt. More information on the program and speakers will be available soon; call Ms. Pinnigar for details.

Plans are also underway to open a Learning Centre in Gibsons, probably in September. The drop-in facility for adults will be located in a portable classroom at Elphinstone Secondary School and will have afternoon and evening hours. The group has also put in a proposal to start a "Literacy and Life Skills" program in Sechelt; however, the proposal is still in the initial planning stages.

PL SURREY/DELTA

Contact: Bev Yaworsky, Surrey
Public Library
Phone: 591-4312, or:
Ene Haabnit, Newton Public Library
Phone: 596-7401

An information-sharing session on available resource materials (videos, special collections, new titles, etc.) for classrooms and libraries highlighted the June 20 meeting held at the Whalley Library. The group is planning an International Literacy Day Event at Surrey Place Mall, and has booked the mall's centre rotunda for September 8. The event will feature "Wormsworth for Literacy" (Wormsworth the Bookworm is a human-sized mascot of green fake fur with a detachable 47 foot tail.) Planning committee chairperson for the event is Marianne Hall. The next scheduled meeting of PL Surrey/Delta is Wednesday, September 19.

PL TERRACE

Contact: Jake Muller
Northwest Community College
P.O. Box 726
Terrace, B.C. V8G 4C2
Phone: 635-6511 Local 255
Fax: 635-3511

PL Terrace met in early June and again June 27 at the Skeena Junior High School Library. Jake Muller, who replaces Larry Bolingbroke as the contact person for the group, was elected President; Patti Barnes was elected Chair and Treasurer.

PL VICTORIA

Contact: The Learners' Network
c/o Linda Mitchell
R.E.A.D. Society
720 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4G7
Phone: 388-4721

An innovative, revamped version of the literacy play "Marks on Paper," created by five area learners with the assistance of a local theatre company, was performed at the Annual General Meeting of PL Victoria on June 11. It was the third performance last month by the troupe, which hopes to perform the play for other learners' groups as well.

The cast featured Michael Booker and Dianna Drake, both of the Learners' Network; Ann Gaulti, from the H.E.A.L.-H.I. program, Sooke School District; Neva Glausch, Victoria R.E.A.D. Society; and Stacey Smithson, of the School District's Adult Learning Centre. They were advised by Harry Lewis, of Spectrum Community School (and A.B.E.A.B.C. regional representative, Vancouver Island), and Suzanne Turnbull of Victoria's Kalaidoscope Theatre.

"Kalaidoscope helped us develop theatrical concepts, such as (using) costumes and different kinds of props ... including life-sized puppets," explained Susan Kurushima of the Learners' Network. "The result was that these performances look different from any others you've seen." She said the learners who participated found it a valuable and rewarding experience. "They are eager to perform again, and particularly for other learners," reports Ms. Kurushima.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

The play was performed at the B.C. Association of Continuing Education Administrators Conference in Victoria on June 6, and on another occasion for family and friends.

PL Victoria elected its new board and heard reports from four committees at the June 11 AGM: public relations, finance, membership and fundraising. The agenda also included presentations from the Learners' Network and the Learners' Advisory Committee. The Network plans to form a support group for spouses of adult learners. The Learners' Network offices will remain open this summer for the first time (contact the above phone number for hours.)

LITERACY B.C. WEST KOOTENAYS

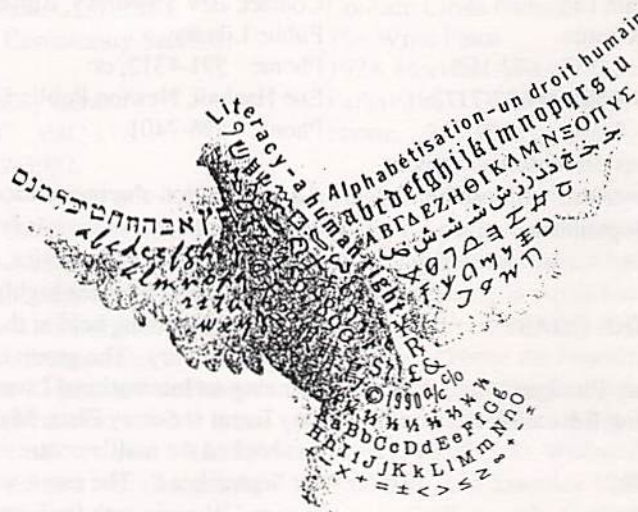
Contact: Judy Wearmouth
Castlegar Public Library
1005-3rd Street
Castlegar, B.C. V1N 2A2
Phone: 365-7765

PL WILLIAMS LAKE

Contact: Debby DeMare
P.O. Box 4596
Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 2V6
Phone: 398-8400

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. We provide information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to upgrade their skills through adult basic education. Our toll-free number for learners outside the lower mainland is:

1-800-633-1293



*Helping Canadians
read and write*

*Pour aider les canadiens
à lire et à écrire*

This symbol for Literacy in Canada, commissioned by Canada Post Corporation, was unveiled by His Excellency The Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, P.C., C.C., C.M.M., C.D., Q.C., Governor General of Canada and Mr. Sylvain Cloutier, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Canada Post Corporation, at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, Ontario, on April 25, 1990.